



Libby

Urban District of Shoreham-by-Sea

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

1955

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1955

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
(at 31st December, 1955)

Chairman: Councillor S.M. O'NEILL

Vice-Chairman: Councillor A.F. HOOPER

Chairman of the Council: Councillor J.W. BAYLEY, J.P.

Councillor T.J. BIRKETT

" E.Q. KIBBLEWHITE

" R.G.N. LATHAM

" E.R. SUTER

" F.W. WARREN

Shoreham-by-Sea,
June, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for 1955.

I think it has been a year of good progress in the field of environmental hygiene. Our chief concern has been cleaner air and food. There is a growing realization, brought about by an increase in the number of cases of food poisoning and in the number of deaths from lung cancer, of the necessity for these essentials of healthy living, and although Britain led the world in providing pure water supplies, in clean air and clean food we have lagged behind.

Mental ill-health is undoubtedly on the increase throughout the country. This is largely connected with personal relationships, but two environmental conditions which I feel play a great part are noise and lack of privacy. Both these factors could be avoided or mitigated by good planning. Old peoples' dwellings could be sited away from childrens' playgrounds; more attention could be paid to sound insulation between semi-detached houses, and especially flats. Money spent on providing solid fences between houses, particularly between adjacent rooms would, I think, be money well-spent. Only too often, Council tenants look straight into one anothers' living-rooms, with only a chain-link fence between the two windows.

The overall position with regard to housing is easier than a year ago, but welfare problems created by the wandering homeless seem to be increasing. These wanderers are families which move from district to district in a series of lodgings, never staying long enough in one area to qualify for a Council house.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their support during the year, and especially I should like to thank Mr. Goodbody and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. HARRISON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Public Health & Housing Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

T. H. HARRISON, M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D. P. H., D. T. M. & H., part-time with other districts in the County.
Also Port M.O. to the New Shoreham Port Health Authority, Assistant County Medical Officer, and School M.O. to the West Sussex County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

R. G. GOODBODY, M. R. S. H., M. S. I. A., Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
Duties: General duties of sanitary inspectors as laid down in the Sanitary Officers' Order including inspection of meat and other foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: (appointed 1st August 1955)

B. A. WILLIAMS, A. R. S. H., M. S. I. A., Certificate of the Royal Society of Health and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
Duties: General duties of sanitary inspectors as laid down in the Sanitary Officers' Order including inspection of meat and other foods.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

Miss S. M. MULLINS.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors:

Miss J. C. MOON.

Rodent Operator and General Assistant: (part-time)

G. T. VINCE.

Section I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Shoreham is situate on the south coast, midway between Brighton and Worthing. Flowing down from Bramber in the north, the River Adur bounds the town on its west side; winding under the Norfolk Bridge, it then flows eastwards until it again turns southwards to enter the sea through Shoreham Harbour mouth at Kingston. In this way the river cuts off from Shoreham town the shingle beach south of the Adur.

The town possesses a public recreation area, Buckingham Park, which is situated at the foot of the Downs north of the town; comprising 38 acres, it is used as a public park and pleasure ground, available for general sports and recreation purposes. The chief industries in the town are timber and coal importing, chemical and plastic manufacturing, the processing of animal by-products and boat-building.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	3,093
Registrar General's estimate of resident Population (mid-year 1955)	...	...	...	14,190
Population (Census, 1951)	...	...	...	13,052
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£157,341
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£601
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955 according to Rate Book	...	...	...	4,545

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M	F
Live Births	- Legitimate	196	106	90
do.	Illegitimate	12	8	4
		<u>208</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>94</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population: 14.7

Corrected Birth Rate 15.6

		Total	M	F
Still Births	- Legitimate	5	1	4
do.	Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births: 23.5

DEATHS

Males - 67. Females - 93. Total ... 160

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated
resident population 11.3

Corrected Death Rate 9.3

The chief causes of death in order of frequency were:-

(i) Diseases of the heart & circulatory system	81
(ii) Cancer	34
(iii) Diseases of Respiratory system ...	18

The above 3 causes accounted for 133 or 83.1% of the total deaths recorded during the year.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil

Number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 33.7

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live
births 35.7

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate
live births Nil

Net deaths from causes at various ages under one year

	Under 1 wk.	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
Congenital Atelectasis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital Malformation	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1
Duodenal Atresia	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Gastro-Enteritis	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1955

	England & Wales	West Sussex	Shoreham U.D.
	Urban	Rural	
Birth Rate	15.0	11.7	14.7
Death Rate	11.7	15.4	11.3
Infantile Death Rate	24.9	23.6	33.7
Pulmonary T.B. Death Rate ..	0.13	0.11	0.14
Cancer Death Rate	2.1	2.7	2.4
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	0.64	Nil	0.37
			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SHOREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	-
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections		..	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	-
8.	Measles	..	..	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		5	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	-	3
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms		5	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	-	-
16.	Diabetes	..	..	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system		10	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	13	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	-	4
20.	Other heart disease	..	4	14
21.	Other circulatory disease		2	4
22.	Influenza	..	..	-
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	5
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system		1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion		-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		6	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	2	-
34.	All other accidents	..	1	2
35.	Suicide	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	-	-
<u>ALL CAUSES:</u>			67	93
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Section II

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASES

The following infectious diseases are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health:

Cholera	Plague
Diphtheria	Pneumonia (Primary or Influenza)
Dysentery	
Encephalitis (Acute)	Poliomyelitis (Acute)
Enteric (Typhoid or Paratyphoid) Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Malaria	Scarlet Fever
Measles	Smallpox
Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis (All forms)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhus
Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning	Whooping Cough

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TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1955.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 yr.	N	-	-	-
1 - 4 ..	E	-	-	-
5 - 14 ..	W	-	3	-
15 - 24 ..		2	-	-
25 - 34 ..	C	1	-	-
35 - 44 ..	A	2	3	-
45 - 54 ..	S	-	1	-
55 - 64 ..	E	-	1	1
65 & over	S	-	1	1
TOTALS	5	9	1	1

There were no deaths from or new cases of Non-Pulmonary T.B.

CASES ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER 1955

Pulmonary	M.	48	F.	52	100	Total
Non-Pulmonary	M.	7	F.	3	10	
Totals		55		55	110	

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF SURVEY CARRIED OUT AT SHOREHAM

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of Persons X-rayed ..	..	1539	948	2,487
No. recalled for large films ..		97	84	181
No. found to have abnormal films		62	50	112

Analysis of Abnormal large films:

Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	4	8
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	18	39
Malignant disease (Cancer)	2	-	2
Other Diseases of lung or pleura . . .	23	13	36
Cardio-Vascular Diseases	5	11	16

NO. (per 1,000 persons x-rayed) with
Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 3.2

+ I am indebted to Dr. B.G. Rigden, Director of the East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit, for the above figures.

TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG CANCER

During July, 1955 the East Sussex Mass X-ray Unit visited Shoreham and operated for 11 days at St. Wilfreds, (see table above). The areas from which these people came were mainly Shoreham, Southwick and Lancing, but the service had no territorial restriction. 2,487 people were x-rayed; 8 of these were found to have active Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 to have lung cancer. This gave a figure of 3.2 persons per 1,000 x-rayed with active pulmonary T.B., and .8 per 1,000 with lung cancer.

In Shoreham and Southwick there are approximately 18,000 people over the age of 15. If the figures I have quoted are representative, there may be 58 persons in those districts with undetected Pulmonary T.B. and 15 with lung cancer.

Tuberculosis and lung cancer are two entirely different diseases; T.B. is an infectious disease caused by a known agent, the tubercle bacillus, and spread from person to person by inhalation of these bacilli, which are coughed up in large quantities by certain infected persons.

Lung cancer is a new growth of cells growing from normal cells in the lungs. The exact cause of this is still obscure, but a definite relationship has been established between lung cancer and cigarette smoking on one hand, and atmospheric pollution on the other. It

seems that the parts played by cigarette smoking and atmospheric pollution are about equal.

What is being done to combat these two very serious diseases? The fight against Tuberculosis shows more prospect of better results in the immediate future, as we are armed with the knowledge of how to prevent this disease, even if our results up to now have not been very successful. Our main lines of attack are:-

1. Energetic treatment of all known cases. This is being done very successfully, with the new drugs at our disposal, and improved techniques of thoracic surgery.

2. Early detection of cases, and isolation of infectious cases. Early detection has been assisted by Mass X-ray; unfortunately, the application of this is limited. To be really effective, all the adults and adolescents in the country would have to be x-rayed every 6 months. This is clearly impossible. It might well be that better results would be obtained if each x-ray department in general hospitals was equipped with a miniature camera to which large numbers of "doubtful" cases could be referred by General Practitioners. Why is this not done? Largely, a shortage of S.S.D. Even if this was possible, we would have no powers to see that it was used, but could only rely on the public-spiritedness and common sense of the public.

I feel that much more use could be made of skin-testing as a diagnostic aid. If all children were skin-tested from the age of 6 months, and the families of all strong reactors investigated, as many cases would be brought to light as by mass x-ray. This is not at present being done because we have no suitable administrative set up.

B.C.G. vaccination is now being offered to school leavers. It is estimated that this will cut down the incidence of Tuberculosis in these age groups by a half.

Our only hope of reducing the amount of lung cancer is by intensifying our efforts in the clean air campaign, and by advising smokers to give up their cigarette-smoking habits. To persuade habitually heavy smokers is a pretty hopeless task; even so, we should do our utmost to prevent the young from taking up the habit.

COLD INJURY IN THE NEWBORN

From time to time, apparently-new diseases come to light. Some of these diseases frequently turn out to be not "new", but conditions which have always existed under the name of a similar disease, until some particularly keen observer took note of their differences.

In mid-Sussex one of those "new" diseases has been recognized by Dr. Trevor Mann, Paediatrician to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Brighton. This disease, which is called "Cold Injury in the Newborn", has undoubtedly been causing deaths among newborn babies which have hitherto been attributed to broncho-pneumonia. It is fairly clear now that this is a disease entirely in itself, and is caused by newborn babies becoming cold. This invariably takes place during a spell of cold weather, and a usual story is that the baby was in a room with a coal fire burning, and the fire went out during the night. The baby is found to be literally "cold", and if its temperature falls below 96deg.F. the process is usually irreversible and the baby dies.

The remedy for this is prevention. It is up to every mother to see that some form of heating is kept going at all times in the room containing her newborn baby, and the temperature should not be allowed to fall below 65deg.F. During the confinement the room temperature should be maintained at 70deg.F.

There is very little accurate information available as to the usual temperatures prevailing in rooms used for home confinements. With the aid of instruments kindly loaned by the South-Eastern Gas Board, I was able to make continuous recordings of temperatures in rooms taken at random, and the recordings were started as soon as the midwife was first called to the confinements, continuing for 24 hours or so.

A temperature of 70deg.F. was easily maintained, although this was during one of the coldest spells of weather we had had for years.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955

	Total Cases	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital
Dysentery	35	-	12	16	-	-	6	1	-	-	16
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Malaria	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	373	9	68	90	193	9	2	2	-	-	13
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	6	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	6
Optalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	35 ^x	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	20	-	35
Scarlet Fever	9	-	1	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	24	1	8	4	10	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	491	11	91	115	207	16	26	23	1	1	78

^xAll cases notified from Southlands Hospital. Only six were residents of Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District.

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS - 1945 - 1955

YEAR	Est. Popu- lation	NO. OF BIRTHS			Crude Birth Rate	NO. OF DEATHS			Crude Infant Death Rate				
		Legitimate M.	Legitimate F.	Illegitimate Total		M.	F.	Total					
1945	9,566	76	87	163	10	11	21	19.23	65	72	137	14.3	33.0
1946	11,170	111	122	233	10	10	20	22.6	53	60	113	10.1	20.0
1947	11,900	110	127	237	8	9	17	21.3	73	60	133	11.2	20.0
1948	12,190	107	91	198	5	11	16	17.6	73	56	129	10.6	33.0
1949	12,480	106	91	197	6	3	9	16.5	90	69	159	12.7	29.0
1950	12,780	74	76	150	5	7	12	12.7	63	77	140	10.9	43.2
1951	12,970	70	97	167	4	6	10	13.6	87	61	148	11.4	28.2
1952	12,890	91	91	182	5	4	9	14.8	79	69	148	11.5	10.5
1953	12,060	87	78	165	3	2	5	13.01	83	59	142	10.9	23.5
1954	13,510	101	103	204	2	6	8	15.7	75	53	128	9.5	9.4
1955	14,190	106	90	196	8	4	12	14.7	67	93	160	11.3	33.7

Section III

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospitals

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances, subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for - medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment. The hospitals are:-

Nursing

General District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and School Nurses are employed by the West Sussex County Council to serve in the area. Lists showing names and addresses of these nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls, or Offices of local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester.

Ambulance Service

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police or public in case of accidents or other emergencies.

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton 7 carries out all public health work for the Council, including examinations of water, milk and ice-creams, ear, nose and throat swabs, specimens of excreta and bacteriological examination of food.

General Medical and Dental Services

Local arrangements for these services are organized through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 175 Broyle Road, Chichester.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council, and no cases have been notified. At the end of the year the position was as follows:-

Total number of children immunised:

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	168
5 - 14 years of age		...	...	70
Who received a third reinforcing dose			...	219

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations, which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of Milk.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

It was not found necessary for action to be taken under this section for the removal to suitable premises of any persons in need of care and attention.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Unless otherwise stated, all clinics are held at the following address:-

Health Centre, Middle Road, Shorham. Telephone: 2874

Infant Welfare

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 - 4.0p.m.

Mothercraft

Wednesdays, 3.0 - 5.0p.m.

Ante-Natal

1st and 3rd Friday in each month, 2.30 - 4.0p.m.

Pre-Natal - Instruction Classes

Monday, 2.30 - 5.0p.m.

Family Planning

2nd Friday in the month, 2.30 - 4.0p.m.

Orthopaedic

By appointment. Health Centre, Irene Avenue,
Lancing (Tel: Lancing 3128).

Eye

Friday morning - by appointment.

Dental

By appointment.

Speech Therapy

By appointment.

The following Clinics are administered by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Tuberculosis

Wednesday - by appointment.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.

Venereal Disease - Worthing Hospital, Worthing.

<u>Males:</u>	Wednesday	Friday
	5.30 - 6.30p.m.	4.30 - 5.30p.m.

Females:

Wednesday	Friday
3.0 - 5.0p.m.	2.0 - 4.0p.m.

Section IV

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

There is an abundant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Four water samples were collected during the year and the results obtained were satisfactory.

Extensions of public water supplies during the year:-

Location	Length (yds.)	Diameter (Ins.)
Shoreham Beach	1292	4
	324	6 }
Mill Hill	514	4
	149	6 }
Cul-de-sac off Now Barn Road	53	3
Cul-de-Sac off The Street	26	4
Crown Road	1145	4
Oxen Avenue	125	3
Cul-de-sac off Kingston Lane	198	3
	24	4 }
TOTAL	3850	-

Public Scavenging

House Refuse

House refuse is removed weekly by the Council with direct labour. The refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method and is collected by mechanical freighters.

Sewers

New sewers have been laid in the following streets:
Crown Road, Ashcroft Close.

Cesspools and Pail Closet Conversions

Cesspools and septic tanks situate in areas where sewers are not available are emptied with a mechanical cesspool emptier and the sewage disposed of at the sewage works. A charge is made for the service in certain defined areas.

Cesspools have been abolished at nine properties in Crown Road, one property in Middle Road, and "Ashcroft", Kingston Lane, and the properties connected to the main sewer.

Rivers and Streams

No action has been taken to check pollution of rivers and streams.

Shops Act, 1950

Number of Shops in district	297
" " Inspections made	124
" " Contraventions found	9
" " " remedied	4

Atmospheric Pollution

A great deal of attention has been given to the investigation of complaints of atmospheric pollution by smoke, soot, dust and fumes. It was necessary for 16 intimation notices to be served in respect of nuisances as follows:

Smoke and soot	..	..	..	..	14
Dust	..	..	..	..	2

One statutory notice was served in respect of smoke nuisance, and an improvement has been effected.

165 observations were made in respect of smoke and dust emissions and 86 visits were made to investigate the working of boilers and plants causing dust. Recommendations have been made to five firms concerning more efficient stoking and working of plants; in some cases improvements have been carried out, and in

other cases work is proceeding. It is always apparent that inefficient stoking is the main cause of smoke nuisances, and not "the poor quality fuel" used.

Some trouble has been experienced regarding small boilers used in connection with Harbour reconstruction, which have been producing excessive quantities of smoke. Some difficulty has been found in endeavouring to persuade the operators to stoke these boilers efficiently.

Further complaints were received concerning the emission of sulphuretted hydrogen from the Chemical Works in the district. The Ministry's Inspector of Alkali etc. Works was called in, and after he had made recommendations to the firm concerned, the nuisance was abated.

In September a petition was received, signed by 82 residents of Brighton Road, protesting about the dust and smoke from neighbouring industries. Many observations have been made in connection with this matter, and investigations are still proceeding.

Verminous Premises

(1) Council Houses

{a}	Found to be infested with bed bugs	Nil
{b}	Found to be infested with fleas	5
{c}	Number disinfested	5

(2) Other Houses

{a}	Found to be infested with bedbugs	Nil
{b}	Found to be infested with fleas	10
{c}	Number disinfested	10

(3) Number of premises treated for other insect pests 16

Infested houses are treated with liquid insecticides or gammexane smoke, according to the circumstances. The houses and furniture of prospective tenants of Council houses are examined where necessary for the presence of vermin and treated as above.

Moveable Dwellings

No applications were received during the year for licences in respect of caravan sites.

5 applications were received for licences to station a caravan which were all granted subject to certain conditions.

62 inspections have been made to enforce the requirements of the Council's Byelaws and Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There were no premises in the district registered under this Act.

No. of inspections made in connection with the Act	2
--	---

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953

55 inspections have been made of premises retailing heating appliances.

The following table indicates the type of appliances examined and the results of the tests:-

Type of heating appliance	Paraffin Oil	Gas	Electric
NUMBER TESTED	11	11	17
<u>Weight Test</u>			
Complied	11	11	17
Did not comply	--	--	--
<u>Probe Test</u>			
Complied	11	7	15
Did not comply	--	4	2
<u>Smoulder Test</u>			
Complied	11	7	15
Did not comply	--	4	2

Of the 12 heating appliances which did not in some respect comply with the test, 2 were withdrawn from sale and the remainder were altered or fitted with an improved type of guard so that they complied with the Regulations.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Number of premises licensed	..	..	..	..	4
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	10

Schools

Number of schools in the district	..	..	..	7
Number with public water supply	..	..	..	7
Number with water closets:				
(a) Separate pedestal	..	..	..	6
(b) Trough	..	..	..	1

Health Education

During the year talks were given by the Sanitary Inspectors to various local organizations, and lectures to the student nurses at Southlands Hospital, on environmental health and food hygiene. "On the spot" talks were also given to food handlers in elementary food hygiene.

Offensive Trades

Forty-eight inspections were made of premises carrying on an offensive trade. During the year extensive alterations were carried out in order to modernise the premises concerned, and the improvement in cleanliness previously noted was being maintained.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The methods employed in the destruction of rodents in the district are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, and a part-time rodent operator is employed.

The Council's sewers are treated systematically and the refuse tip was treated 13 times during the year, but no major infestation was found.

A free service is given in respect of private dwelling houses.

Number of inspections made	..	..	..	234
Number of visits by Rodent Operator	..	..	..	2,436
Complaints made by the public	..	..	..	144
Infestations found as a result of the above				142
Infestations found by the Public Health Department				61
Total number of premises treated	..	..	..	203
Number of "block" control premises carried out				18

It was necessary for a notice to be served under Section 4 of the above Act, requiring the owner to deal with rat-infested land. The necessary work was eventually carried out by the Council in default.

Badgers

A number of complaints were received from residents living west of Buckingham Park, of the killing of poultry and damage caused by badgers. It was found that there were a large number of badgers occupying setts on the east side of Ravensbourne Avenue. The badgers were destroyed by means of gassing and trapping, and the entrances to the setts were filled in.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspection for the purpose of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	18	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	72	58	6	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. +(excluding out-workers premises	13	4	1	-
TOTAL	96	80	9	-

+ i.e. Electrical stations (Sec. 103-1), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations, and Works of engineering construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. Cases in which Defects were found:

Particulars	CASES WHERE DEFECTS WERE:		<u>Referred</u>	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness:	2	1	-	-
Overcrowding:	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature:	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation:	2	2	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors:	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary conveniences-</u>				
Insufficient:	5	4	-	-
Unsuitable or defective:	8	12	-	-
Not separate for sexes:	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork):	2	3	4	-
 TOTAL	20	22	4	-

In no cases was prosecution instituted.

Outworkers

There are two outworkers in the district.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	35
Windows repaired	..	..	..	26
Walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	29
Damp walls treated	..	..	..	56
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	2
Floors repaired	..	..	..	6
Sinks repaired or renewed	..	..	..	7
Larders provided	..	..	..	2
Washcoppers provided	..	..	..	1
Spouting provided or repaired	..	..	..	22
Water pipes repaired	..	..	..	9
Firegrates repaired or renewed	..	..	..	6
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	3
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	11
Drains reconstructed	..	..	..	4
Drains repaired	..	..	..	9
Drains cleansed	..	..	..	27
Cesspools abolished	..	..	..	3
W.C.s provided	..	..	..	5
W.C.s repaired	..	..	..	9
Chemical closets provided	..	..	..	1
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	10
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	8
Shops Act	..	..	..	4
Food premises - defects	..	..	..	45
Factories Act	..	..	..	13
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	19
Overcrowding	..	..	..	1
Smoke and dust	..	..	..	10
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	<u>1</u>
				384

Number of inspections with regard to Infectious Disease	..	..	..	58
Number of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	..	..	..	3
Number of workplaces inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	12
Number of visits in connection with insect pests	..	..	..	132
Number of interviews with owners, agents etc.				204
Number of visits in connection with the keeping of animals and the Council's Byelaws relating thereto	..	..	..	41
Number of inspections regarding accumulations or deposits	..	..	..	90
Number of visits regarding domestic water supply				16
Total number of inspections for all purposes				3,451
Total number of notices served:				
(a) Informal	..	..	..	198
(b) Statutory	..	..	..	16
Total number of summonses issued	..	..	..	Nil
Total number of convictions obtained	..	..	..	Nil

Complaints Classified

Drains	..	..	..	44
Structural defects	..	..	..	37
Animals	..	..	..	14
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	144
Other vermin and insects	..	..	..	42
Smoke and dust	..	..	..	29
Van dwellers	..	..	..	1
Accumulations	..	..	..	19
Unsound food	..	..	..	46
Dustbins	..	..	..	15
Unhygienic food handling	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	189
				<u>583</u>

Section VINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk Supply

No. of Milk Distributors registered	19
No. of premises registered as Dairies ..	2
No. of Dealers licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk	2
No. of Supplementary licenses to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk	4
No. of Dealers licensed to sell "Pasteurised" milk	3
No. of Supplementary licenses to retail "Pasteurised" milk ..	4
No. of Retailers licensed to sell "Sterilised" milk	13

Number of Inspections made:

{1} Milk Shops and Dairies	39
{2} Vehicles	3
{3} Number of Contraventions found ..	Nil

During the year 12 samples of milk have been submitted for biological examination for Tuberclle Bacilli. In no case was this Bacillus found, but in one case Brucella Abortus was found as a result of the Brucella Ring Test. In this case the County Veterinary Officer was notified for the appropriate action to be taken.

Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, and most of the home-killed meat sold in the area is brought from the Brighton Abattoir.

Particular attention has been paid to the parts of the butchers' premises where meat products are prepared and some improvement has been effected at certain of the premises concerned.

No. of Butchers' Shops	14
No. of food-preparing premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Not including ice-cream premises) ..	18
No. of inspections of butchers' shops ..	44
No. of inspections of vehicles	2
No. of inspections of slaughterhouses in Southwick Urban District	10
No. of inspections of food-preparing premises	78
No. of contraventions found	5
No. of contraventions remedied	8
Quantity of canned and butchers' meat condemned as unfit for human consumption .. 8cwt. 18lbs. 9oz.	

Ice-Cream

No. of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream (complete cold mix)	..	..	7
No. of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	..	..	50
No. of contraventions found	..	..	3
No. of contraventions remedied	..	..	2
No. of inspections made	..	..	67

The following is a table showing the grading of the 20 samples of ice-cream which were procured in connection with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952:

Grade	I	II	III	IV	Void Samples	Total
No. of Samples	6	8	1	2	3	20

The percentage of satisfactory samples still remains high, and in the case of the samples coming within grades III and IV the manufacturers were approached and advice given. The follow-up samples showed improvements.

Bakehouses

Number in district	..	..	..	..	7
Number underground	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	23
Number of contraventions found	..	..	..	..	5
Number of contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	2

Fish Friers

Number in district	..	..	..	..	7
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	8
Number of contraventions found	..	..	..	..	2
Number of contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	Nil

Restaurant Kitchens

Number of restaurants, cafes, snack bars etc.	..	..	..	..	28
Number of inspections made	..	..	..	..	64
Number of contraventions found	..	..	..	..	5
Number of contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	2

The kitchen and sanitary accommodation of one restaurant has been re-organized due to previous unsatisfactory conditions, and general improvements have been effected in other premises. The proprietors of most catering establishments have had their attention drawn to the necessity for an improvement in the general cleanliness and methods of food handling.

Miscellaneous Food Premises

Other food premises in the district are shown as follows:

Grocers shops	33
Greengrocers shops	16
Confectioners shops	12
Sweet shops	18
Wet fish shops	11
Licensed premises	23
Off-license premises	5
Wholesale grocers	4
Food-manufacturing premises	5
Total -	127

Number of inspections made	175
Number of contraventions found	13
Number of contraventions remedied	3

Shell Fish

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Inspection of Other Foods

A number of complaints have been received during the year of unsound food sold to members of the general public. In each case a thorough investigation has been made and in some cases warning letters have been sent to the manufacturers.

Several complaints concerning dirty milk bottles from dairies in other districts have been referred to the appropriate departments for action.

Two complaints were received concerning mouldy and dirty bread purchased at a shop in the district but manufactured outside the district. The shop-keeper concerned has now given up that source of supply.

Complaints were received on two occasions concerning meat pies sold in a stale condition. The danger in consuming out-of-condition meat pies cannot be over-emphasized, and a comprehensive investigation was carried out into the cause for such complaints, both by this Department, the retailer and the manufacturer. It was impossible to establish if the pies were fresh when delivered, and therefore difficult to apportion the blame for the condition of the pies. It seems possible

that a customer might buy a meat pie which is nearly a week old, without becoming aware of it until it is necessary to call in the doctor.

It should be possible for the manufacturers to wrap the pies individually and seal each with the date of manufacture.

Various food stuffs have been examined during routine inspections of food premises and as a result of requests by shopkeepers and wholesalers, the following foods have been condemned as unfit for human consumption:

Wet and dried fish ..	21 lbs. 12 oz.
Canned foods ..	21cwt. 67 lbs. 9 oz.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Arrangements have been made with a local firm for the collection of condemned meat over 281bs. in weight for processing. Smaller quantities of meat and other condemned food are destroyed at the Council's tip.

Food Byelaws

The attention of all food traders in the district is drawn to the provisions of the food handling byelaws, and various aspects of the byelaws are pointed out when premises are inspected. During the year 42 food vehicles, carts and barrows were inspected and appropriate action was taken where contraventions were found. Complaints were received concerning inadequate wrapping of meat and fried fish, and also the dirty condition of the wrapping material used. A letter was sent to all the retailers concerned reminding them of the appropriate provisions of the food handling byelaws. No further complaints have been received in this connection.

Section VI

HOUSING

A. COUNCIL HOUSES

Hammy Lane Estate

Seventy-thrce dwellings were completed during 1955, comprising 38 3-bedroom and 35 2-bedroom houses. A further 12 dwellings and 2 shops-with-flats were under construction at the end of the year; it was anticipated that these would be ready for occupation early in 1956, thus completing the Hammy Lane Estate, comprising 297 dwellings of all types.

New Building - Southdown Estate

The Council's proposal for new building in 1956 is the erection on the Southdown Estate of 56 dwellings, almost half of which have been provisionally set aside for re-housing families who may be displaced from a proposed slum clearance area. At the close of the year, preparations for this next scheme were well in hand.

Flat Conversions

The Council's policy to convert suitable pre-war houses into 1-bedroom flats as and when possible was carried into effect during the year; the work of conversion on one house in Gordon Road and one in Dolphin Road was completed, and the flats occupied.

These and future converted flats will provide most useful and needed small accommodation, particularly for elderly persons.

Requisitioned Properties

Three properties remained under requisition at the end of the year. It was anticipated that these would be released early in 1956.

Housing Waiting List

At the 31st December, 1955 the Council's housing waiting list recorded 266 applications for all types of accommodation. Applications had been considered in date-order up to those registered in March of 1953.

Summary of Housing Accommodation
administered by the Council. (as at 31/12/55)

Pre-war houses	265
Post-war houses	521
Miscellaneous properties	<u>5</u>
	791
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B. PRIVATE BUILDING

308 houses have been completed by private enterprise during the year; 149 in the Parish of Shoreham-by-Sea and 159 in the Parish of Kingston-by-Sea.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1955

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	148
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	850
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	50
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	253
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	50
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	78

2. Remodelling of defects without Service of Formal Notices

No. of defective dwelling houses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action ..	121
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3. Action Under Statutory Power during the Year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936-1949:

- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. 1
- (2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default .. Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6
- (2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:
 - (a) By owners 6
 - (b) By Local Authority in default .. Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:

- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

- (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made 2
- (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement room having been rendered fit Nil

E. Proceedings under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953:

- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made Nil
- (2) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined Nil

4. Housing Act 1936-1949 - Overcrowding.

(a) i.	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.. .. ..	..	4
ii.	No. of families dwelling therein	..	..	4
iii.	No. of persons dwelling therein	..	..	33
(b)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.. ..	..	3
(c) i.	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.. ..	..	2
ii.	No. of persons concerned in such cases			14
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	..	Nil

5. Housing Act 1936 - Clearance Areas

<u>No. of dwelling houses demolished in the period:</u>		Land coloured "pink"	Land coloured "grey"
Unfit houses	.. ..	5	-
Other houses	.. ..	-	-
No. of persons displaced:		17	-

